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## Surprise! Class of '91 is 91 Percent Employed

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## Surprise!

*Class of '91 is 91 percent employed*

By Audrey Koscielniak

Coordinator, Career Development Office

Confronting one of the most difficult job markets in years, Class of 1991 graduates closed in on an impressive 91 percent employment rate, only one percent under the Class of 1990's rate of 92 percent.

Another surprise: Private law firm employment showed the greatest increase — 7 percent — rising from 52 percent in 1990 to 59 percent in 1991. Most of that growth was in large firms (51-100 attorneys). Only 6 graduates were bound for large firms in '90; but 13 graduates followed that route in '91.

Very small firms (2-10 attorneys) continued to dominate the private practice category, attracting 46 graduates, compared to last year's count of 43. Also in the private sector, corporation hiring showed an increase, nearing 8 percent, compared to last year's 6 percent figure.

Public interest (defined as legal services, public defender, legal aid, and other cause specific agencies) mirrored last year's figures, staying in the 9 percent range. On the other hand, the government category of public practice was down almost by half. Most of that decline was in local government, a subcategory that, in the past, has included a substantial number of entry-level district attorney positions. Perhaps this is a sign of the economic times.

Judicial clerkships accounted for 12, or 6.2 percent of the graduates. Federal clerkships remained at 7;

however, state clerkships (5) fell short of last year's high of 9.

While the military percentage remained steady in the 2 percent area, the academic category showed an increase from 4 percent to 6.2 percent. Non-law teaching as well as administrative positions accounted for the change.

Geographically, most of the employed/advance study graduates stayed in the Northeast, repeating last year's final count at 176 students (90.3 percent). Again, they concentrated in New York (80.5 percent, compared to last year's 79 percent), with Buffalo continuing and increasing its lead (38.5 percent compared to last year's 35 percent). New York City showed a slight decline, decreasing from 16 percent to 14.4 percent. The District of Columbia repeated its graduate count at 12 and remains the strongest market outside New York State.

When it comes to salaries, the range continues to be wide, with a low of \$15,000 at a very small, private firm to a high of \$86,000 at a very large, private firm. With 130 of 195 employed/advanced study graduates reporting entry level salaries, the '91 average rose to \$39,643 from last year's \$37,865. Also showing an increase were the Mode (\$25,000 to \$30,000) and Median (\$31,116 to \$32,000) salaries.

Like many other law schools, the University at Buffalo had fewer employers conducting on- and off-campus interviews. Nevertheless, in

## Class of 1991 / UB

### EMPLOYERS

#### PRIVATE SECTOR

**115 58.9%**

- 10 Self-Employed
- 46 Very Small (2-10)
- 17 Small (11-25)
- 7 Medium (26-50)
- 13 Large (51-100)
- 20 Very Large (100+)
- 2 Size Not Identified

#### PUBLIC INTEREST

**17 8.7%**

- Legal - 15
  - 5 Public/Def/Leg Aid
  - 5 Legal Services
  - 5 Other

Non-Legal - 2

- 2 Other

#### BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

**15 7.7%**

- Legal - 11
  - 5 Corporation
  - 2 Accounting
  - 1 Bank/Fin Inst
  - 1 Insurance
  - 2 Other

Non-Legal - 4

- 4 Other

#### GOVERNMENT

**19 9.7%**

- Legal - 16
  - 9 Federal
  - 2 State
  - 5 Local

Non-Legal - 3

- 1 State
- 2 Local

#### JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

**12 6.2%**

- 7 Federal
- 5 State

#### MILITARY

**4 2.1%**

- 1 Air Force JAGC
- 1 Army JAGC
- 1 Marines JAGC
- 1 Navy JAGC

#### ACADEMIC

**12 6.2%**

- 2 Advanced Law Study
- 4 Advanced Non-Law Study
- 6 Other [Admin, Fac, Non-Law]

#### UNKNOWN

**1 .5%**

Employer category unidentified

#### TOTAL EMPLOYED

**195**

# Law Employment Report

## CLASS PROFILE

Employed/ Advanced Study	195	90.7%
F/T	180	
P/T	15	
Seeking Employment —have Bar admittance	20	9.3%
	215	100%
Did not take or pass bar & because of this is unemployed	25	N/A
Not actively seeking	13	N/A
TOTAL—Status Known	253	
Status Unknown	2	
TOTAL GRADUATES IN CLASS	255	(3/1/92)

## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS

BASE: 195 Graduates in Employed/Advanced Study

### NORTHEAST REGION 176 90.3%

12	District of Columbia (7%)
1	Maryland
1	New Jersey
157	New York (80.5%)
4	Albany
3	Niagara Falls
4	Binghamton
19	Rochester
75	Buffalo* (38.5%)
4	Syracuse
31	New York** (16%)
17	Other NYS
2	Pennsylvania
1	Vermont
2	Virginia

### SOUTHEAST REGION 1 .5%

1	Florida
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### MIDWEST REGION 6 3.1%

2	Illinois
1	Michigan
1	Nebraska
1	Ohio
1	Texas

### WEST REGION 4 2.1%

3	California
1	Washington

### FOREIGN 2 1.0%

1	Singapore
1	Sweden

### GEOGRAPHIC AREA NOT IDENTIFIED 6 3.1%

### TOTAL 195

\* Includes City of Buffalo and immediate suburbs. \*\* Includes New York City greater metropolitan area

## SALARY SURVEY

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY	# REPORTING/ TOTAL REPORTING	LOW	HIGH	AVERAGE
PRIVATE PRACTICE				
Very Large	19/20	\$47,000	\$86,000	\$68,211
Large	13/13	35,000	86,000	53,154
Medium	6/7	30,000	50,000	41,167
Small	12/17	18,500	76,000	36,529
Very Small	27/46	15,000	45,000	26,185
Self-Employed	0/10	—	—	—
Size Not Identified	0/2	—	—	—
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY	9/15	\$25,000	\$68,000	\$44,778
GOVERNMENT				
Federal	9/9	\$31,000	\$32,800	\$31,361
State	1/3	30,000	30,000	30,000
Local	4/7	27,500	40,000	33,375
PUBLIC INTEREST	15/17	\$19,000	\$35,000	\$27,607
JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS	11/12	\$30,000	\$43,075	\$34,606
MILITARY	1/4	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
ACADEMIC	3/12	\$25,500	\$44,000	\$33,567
CATEGORY NOT IDENTIFIED	0/1 130/195	—	—	—
MEAN [AVERAGE]				\$39,643
MEDIAN				32,000
MODE				30,000

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this most competitive market, our current students have overcome some strong odds and succeeded in receiving job numerous offers.

For example, Buffalo students have again done an excellent job at the US Dept of Justice interviews. Of the 187 attorneys hired, 115 were Class of '92 and 72 were judicial law clerks representing 103 law schools. 57 UB Law students applied; 19 earned interviews, and 5 offers were extended. All were accepted.

Justice receives approximately 7,000 applications for their Honors and Summer Intern programs. This year, 115 students were hired, representing 60 law schools. 29 UB Law students applied; 2 received offers and both were accepted.

Yet another UB Law '92 graduate succeeded in receiving an offer from another Federal agency Honors program, winning one of 7 available slots in a candidate pool of approximately 1,800.

Finally, a reminder — if you or your organization need to hire a law clerk or attorney on a permanent, part-time, or project basis please contact our office. We are in regular contact with experienced attorneys, recent graduates, and current students through our Employment Bulletin and Newsletter. Call the CDO at 636-2056. ■

## NEW PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS AFFORD PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS

**T**he availability and quality of legal services for the state's poor will be improved next year as the result of a new loan program for recent graduates of New York's only two public law schools — the University at Buffalo School of Law and City University of New York Law School at Queens College.

They will share a one-year, \$50,000 grant from the Interest on Lawyers Account (IOLA) that will help those who would like to work with civil legal service agencies — but who were discouraged because of substantial educational debt and comparatively low public service salaries.

The grant will act as seed money to develop a full Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) for all UB Law graduates, according to Dean David B. Filvaroff. He says the Law School will raise additional funds to support graduates who pursue other areas of public interest law, such as public defense, or who choose careers outside the state.

Dean Filvaroff and Associate Dean Alan S. Carrel are now working with an advisory board comprised of law school administrators, faculty, students and area legal service workers to develop the structure, organize the administration and pursue sources for further funding. This committee will also refine the eligibility criteria for the loans.

The loan program will assist graduates from the Classes of 1988 through 1992 who meet employment criteria, income and adjusted income requirements.

According to a Buffalo Public Interest Law Program (BPILP) survey completed in September 1991, students reported that their educational debt often ranges upward of \$25,000, including undergraduate and graduate education. Many reported exceeding \$40,000 in loans. Almost all agreed that their debt would be a major factor in pursuing and accepting post-graduate employment.

The grant was the culmination of a three-year team effort at UB, under the leadership of Associate Dean Carrel and with the help of Angela Reyes '86, an alumna who is assistant district attorney for Monroe County and an IOLA board member.

Christopher Thomas '91 and Kathleen Welch '91, former graduate assistants for BPILP, initiated the project, then turned it over to BPILP graduate assistants K. Jill Barr and Michael Freedman. Law students Catherine Cerulli, Maura Malone, Jennifer Norton and Danny Weitzner also worked on the proposal.

Law student Michael Freedman has been appointed director of the new LRAP program.

"As the only public law schools in the State of New York, Buffalo and CUNY have earned a national reputation for their commitment to the education and training of lawyers devoted to public service practice.

"Now, many more of our graduates will be able to afford to choose a career with the legal services community — and will no longer be forced to take jobs in the private sector in order to meet their educational loan obligations," said Dean Filvaroff. ■